

SEMI-WEEKLY MAUI NEWS

"FOR THE VALLEY ISLE FIRST"

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TUESDAY : : : : JULY 11, 1922

SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMS

Plans for a comprehensive and concrete ten years' school building program for the whole territory are to be prepared by the department of public instruction and Superintendent Vaughan MacCaughy is taking the subject up with members of the department, chairmen of the boards of supervisors and other county officials, it was reported in an Associated Press dispatch from Honolulu Saturday afternoon. In the absence of definite news it is premature to criticize the suggestion other than along general lines.

For the department and the boards of supervisors to get together on a building program extending into the future is an excellent idea providing the powers of the boards as to how much money can be spent in any given year without interfering with other county projects and conduct be not curtailed or interfered with. It has been and is being done here on Maui. As Superintendent MacCaughy is quoted as saying, the Maui High and Grammar School building and the one on which work is progressing at Punene are examples of the wisdom of a general building policy. The Maui program calls for similar concrete buildings to be erected in Lahaina, Wailuku and Paia and later in other communities and Maui is carrying out its program.

As to the wisdom of laying out a ten years' program at this particular time, there is room for argument. It can be said with truth that when counties are struggling to make both ends meet by reason of an antiquated and ill-working tax scheme whereby the tax rate has to be fixed on the previous year's valuation and if the valuation be reduced the territory and the schools get their needs first and the counties have to make the best of things if their estimated revenue falls short, the counties should go slow in making a building budget far in advance. It can also be said with truth that when counties are so hard pressed as is Hawaii this year it is a poor time to attempt to look far ahead.

If the counties are to be called upon further to abrogate rights and powers of self determination and self government, the proposal is to be looked upon with apprehension. There is too little power in the counties and too much in territorial departments now.

School taxes are collected on a basis of population and assessed valuation, through the per capita and the property taxes, but school funds, as this paper has had occasion repeatedly to call to attention, are distributed on a different basis. The board of public instruction decides where the schools are to be and how many grades shall be taught. In this county there is an excessive number of schools that do not teach above the fifth grade so that in the distribution of school money the county does not get its share for the children of school age for whom no schools are provided, the children who would be in the sixth, seventh and eighth grades if there were schools provided for them. The department is the authority that says there shall or shall not be provision for such children and it is the authority that says how the funds shall be distributed. If Maui were awarded a per capita sum for children of school age, whether in attendance or not, there would not have to be a curtailing of instructors in some of the schools and there would be more rural schools that teach the work of higher grades.

The idea of a well laid out but tentative program for a period of years is, in itself, good. However, it should be elastic enough not to place a handicap on the counties in the carrying out of arrangements. An urgent demand may arise three or five years from now in some community where no provision has been made in the program. It may be advisable for a project for a new school building in one community to be delayed that another and more important project be carried out. The counties are the best judges of such conditions, rather than a territorial department.

Maui News is not attacking the proposal for building programs for the counties at this time, is reserving criticism until something definite has been offered, but it stands opposed to any surrender of county rights and to the indefensible method of assessing and distributing school tax money that is now in vogue.

It is said that the next legislature is planning some steps in curtailment of the powers of the department of public instruction and under such circumstances it might be well to wait. On the other hand the department of public instruction should be in a position to lay before the next legislature its needs for the biennial period and tentative plans for a still longer time. By so doing it can command a greater respect from the legislature than it now has.

IMPORTING JAPANESE TEACHERS

One of the problems that confronts Hawaii is how long shall the bringing of teachers for the Japanese schools from Japan be permitted and the subject of the issuance of basic licenses to such teachers may be considered by the school commissioners at their August meeting. The answer should not be a difficult one though it may cause some dissatisfaction among members of the Japanese community.

Settlement of the Japanese school question by the legislature was in the nature of a compromise at the bottom of which was an insistence on the one hand and a more or less reluctant admission on the other that foreign ideals, morals and ethics had no place in foreign language schools in Hawaii, that the teachers should have some knowledge at least of the language of the country, its ideals and its history and must be required to show such knowledge as well as the character of the teachings of the language schools to the department of public instruction under the control of which such schools shall be. It is plain that if the importation of Japanese teachers be continued the carrying out of the purposes of the law must be delayed.

If the Japanese language schools have been and are carrying out their purpose in teaching the Japanese language to their pupils and such pupils, or some of them, take the normal school course in Hawaii, such American born children should be best fitted to carry on the work of the language schools in accordance with the law. That source should be the natural one to look to for a supply. If the Japanese language schools cannot do this, they are not making good under the new law. If vacancies be filled from away, the new teach-

THE OPTIMISTIC PESSIMIST

Times are hard and Zulus are paying for their wives on the instalment plan, reports a Danish author—traveler who recently arrived in New York. It is presumed that delivery to the husband of the bride is postponed until final payment is made unless the Zulus are more steadfast in their marital relations than their "more civilized" white brothers of this country.

Although painters always depict angels as wearing wings that does not by any means signify that all angels are flappers nor the converse of the proposition, that all flappers are angels.

It may be perfectly all right for the modern maid to know more than her mother and to know that she knows more than her mother but all hands are happier if she doesn't make that knowledge too evident to Ma.

Now it is announced from the University of Hawaii that the centipede is a good friend to man, a deadly enemy to cockroaches and has a nice, sweet disposition. Only a scientist could find it out, however, for the average man has been too busy trying to step on the reptiles hundred or more corns all at once.

The public is slow in being convinced that so long as a shoe dealer does not charge more than double what he pays for shoes he is getting only a legitimate profit. It is really astonishing how dense the public remains in spite of all the "education" that was offered to it in the war times.

It may be, and often is, the part of wisdom for the young wife to overlook the first mild flirtation of friend husband but that is no reason why she should be blind to subsequent peccadilloes and adventures into love.

Many a lover who thinks he or she has found the ideal finds that there has been a misdeal. It is hard to blame the dealer when one has shuffled, cut and dealt the cards.

One may search all through the latest "cook books" and yet find no recipe for bobbed hair.

Many a promising courtship develops into a marriage of non-fulfillment.

So long as one looks upon righteousness as a "duty" dictated by the fear of punishment or the hope of reward there is little satisfaction in being "good."

Some "friends" appear to take a real satisfaction in telling their co-friends of their faults and short comings. Even when sympathizing they have a way of laying the blame that touches the quick.

ers will have to take the examinations prescribed just as have the teachers who were here when the law went into effect.

The answer would seem to be that where it can be shown to the satisfaction of the school commissioners that there is need for the importation of an alien teacher and the granting of a basic license to him, the board may do so, but in the absence of conclusive proof the language schools must fill vacancies in their staffs from American born Japanese.

MAUI FAIR NEXT

With the Foresters' "Make Happy" come and gone the way is cleared for the Fifth Annual Maui County Fair, now only about three months away. Soon preparations for its holding will be actively under way so this may be termed the first call to make ready. There is much for the general public to do as well as for the committees and, as a matter of fact, the success of the fair is dependent entirely upon the support the public gives to the director and to his committees. Without exhibits, there would be little to show, and without attendance the fair would be a failure. It is not too early to start thinking about exhibits.

There were reasons advanced why it might be advisable to forego the holding of a fair this year but stronger ones were presented in favor of the fair. The adverse reasons are less strong now than when presented and there has been a steady improvement of conditions which promises to eliminate all arguments that could be advanced against the project. Maui will hold its Fair and it will be a good one, as it always has been.

Recent experiences in all lines of sports and in connection with various entertainments show that Maui will have to cut its cloth according to conditions as they are today, not as they were one and two years ago. Past figures are not to be relied upon as a criterion for those that will be reached next fall. There is no getting away from the fact that there has been a decrease in the laboring population of the county and also that there is not the supply of money for free spending available. But that need not be discouraging. The Fair will draw as does nothing else on this Island. It attracts an interest such as does nothing else and it offers something no other attraction can present. Maui County Fair is an annual institution that has come to be looked forward to from year to year.

Above all else the Maui County Fair is a community project. While exhibits from outside the county are welcomed, primarily it is to show what Maui has done in the year that has passed since the holding of the previous fair. It is a great gathering of a social nature. It will bring into the grounds every resident who can possibly afford to get to them. As such it gives to business interests from away an opportunity to reach at one time a greater number than could ordinarily be reached in a year. That is the outstanding reason for commercial displays.

So far as entertainment features go, barring the shows and concessions, Maui need not send away. There are plenty at home that can be secured and that plenty is better in many instances than anything that can be brought in. An exception may be made in baseball for there is an interest that attaches to competition with strong visiting teams, a rousing of the home and community spirit to support the home team. In the past the army and navy have been generous entertainers and if possible they should be secured again but aside from those features expenses may be kept down and interest kept up by making the coming fair more than ever an essentially Maui institution behind which is the backing of all Maui.

FALSE ECONOMY

Not one of the thousands of employers who came to grief as a result of the dishonesty of employees during the past year suspected a dishonest streak when the men were hired. If it had been suspected they would not have been hired and there would be no necessity for this ad. Unless your employees are bonded and bonded all the time, you are in constant danger of a loss which may be large enough to cripple you financially. Would it not be the better part of economy to spend a few dollars a year for bonding your employees than run the everlasting, nerve-racking risk of losing hundreds, perhaps thousands?

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The Honolulu Advertiser says that it is possible for the farmers of the Islands to conquer pests just as the sugar planters have conquered most of the cane pests. Sure thing! But first they will have to organize, get the money to send away for parasites, be willing to spend the money for such expeditions and generally cooperate. Meantime it is probable the work will have to be done for them by the federal and territorial governments.

Sugar hovering around five cents for immediate delivery makes the hopes of Hawaii mount higher and the average citizen sees that life may contain some brightness. Visions of resuming dividends are nearing realization.

A. P. Taylor has written a book, "Under Hawaiian Skies." It is doubtful if there be a "haole" in the Islands who understands Hawaiian thought, and psychology better or who has been more keenly and deeply interested in things Hawaiian than "A. P. T." Were he Hawaiian born his sympathies and understandings of his favorite subject could not be more profound or more sincere.

John Wise seems likely to have a clear field for the delegate-ship. It is reported that Norman Lyman will be persuaded to run for the legislature again and become speaker of the house. "Link" Holstein has announced he will not be a candidate but may seek election as chairman of the Hawaii County board of supervisors or as supervisor from his home district, Kohala, and the criticism of the way that county's financial affairs are handled.

Suzanne Lenglen, the French tennis star who collapsed in her match with Mrs. Mallory in this country, has "come back" with a bang and Mrs. Mallory got right in the way of her return, to the discomfort of the latter.

WHY WORRY HER

Many an otherwise happy woman has half the joy taken out of her life by worry. She loves her husband and her children and has a home to rejoice in BUT—will it last? If anything happens to the bread winner she will not only be left lonely but without support. ARE YOU WORRYING YOUR WIFE? A policy of insurance is the cure.

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